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# DA'WAH, TA'LIM AND TAZKIYAH

{ THE THREE TASKS OF RASULULLAH (PBUH) }

Translated By:

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Published By:

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# DA'WAH, TA'LİM AND TAZKIYAH

## THE THREE TASKS OF RASŪLULLĀH ﷺ

### *Tafsir of the Ayah*

لَقَدْ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ بَعَثَ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِنْ أَنْفُسِهِمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَإِنْ كَانُوا مِنْ قَبْلُ لَفِي

ضلالٍ مبينٍ % (سورة المائدة: 101)

### By:

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## Introduction

Allāh ﷻ has made Nabī ﷺ such a role model, that the person who is closest to him will be the most beloved in the eyes of Allāh ﷻ.

The booklet before you is an introduction to three tasks of Nabī ﷺ which Allāh ﷻ ordained upon him as his responsibilities in the Noble Qur'ān.

The first responsibility of the Nabī ﷺ was to recite the verses of the Qur'ān to the Ummah. This is the propagation of Dīn. The second was to purify the souls of the believers. This is *Tazkiyah*. The third responsibility was to teach the Ummah the Qur'ān and *Al-Hikmah*.

In this booklet these tasks have been explained in some detail in the light of the commentaries of reliable and respected *Ulamā*.

It is hoped that by means of this work, Allāh ﷻ blesses us with the correct understanding of these responsibilities and the ability to fulfil the rights of these responsibilities. These blessings will enable us to emulate Nabī ﷺ and to attain perfection by adhering to his *Sunnah* so that we attain the proximity of Almighty Allāh ﷻ.

Every believer, together with propagating Dīn and encouraging others to do so, should also be concerned about his own spiritual reformation as well as that of others. It is essential that a person adorns his own life with good actions by studying the knowledge of the Qur'ān and the *Sunnah* and one should encourage others to do the same.

May Allāh ﷻ grant us the divine ability to take as much part as possible in these three domains and may He make us the firm adherents and devotees to every *Sunnah* of *Rasūlullāh* ﷺ, hence granting us love and acceptance. *Āmīn*

(Shaykh) Fadhlor Rahman Azami

## The Responsibilities of the Ambiyâ<sup>1</sup> ﷺ

Allâh ﷻ says:

لَقَدْ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ بَعَثَ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِنْ أَنْفُسِهِمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَ يُزَكِّيهِمْ  
و يُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَ الْحِكْمَةَ وَ إِنْ كَانُوا مِنْ قَبْلُ لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُبِينٍ ﴿١٠٠﴾

Allâh ﷻ has shown great kindness to the believers, when He sent a Messenger to them from among themselves to recite His Signs to them and purify them and teach them the Book and Wisdom, before that they were clearly misguided.<sup>2</sup>

This theme is also mentioned in *Sûrah Jumu'ah*:

هُوَ الَّذِي بَعَثَ فِي الْأُمِّيِّينَ رَسُولًا مِنْهُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَ يُزَكِّيهِمْ وَ يُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ  
وَ الْحِكْمَةَ وَ إِنْ كَانُوا مِنْ قَبْلُ لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُبِينٍ ﴿١٠٠﴾

It is He who raised among the unlettered people a Messenger from among them to recite His verses to them, purify them and teach them the Book and Wisdom, before that they were clearly misguided.<sup>3</sup>

Allâmah Âlûsî<sup>4</sup> mentions in *Rûhul Ma'ânî* (1:386) the *Tafsîr* (commentary) of the following *Âyah*:

Hereunder, the author presents the verses dealing with the subject of discussion. These verses have almost identical words and interpretations, although the sequence of words in one of them is slightly different.

<sup>2</sup>Sûrah Al-Imrân, Verse 114

<sup>3</sup>Sûrah Jumu'ah, Verse 2

<sup>4</sup>Allâmah Abul Fadhî Shuhaybî Dîn As Sayyid Mahmûd Al Âlûsî, a great Commentator of the Qur'ân and Mufti of Baghdad, passed away in 1270 A.H.

The exegesis of this particular verse has been brought; although the explanation applies to all the aforementioned verses.

رَبَّنَا وَابْعَثْ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِنْهُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِكَ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَ

يُزَكِّيهِمْ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ ﴿١٢٨﴾ (سُورَةُ بَاقِرَاتٍ)

Our Lord! Raise up among them a Messenger from them to recite Your Signs to them, to teach them the Book and Wisdom and to purify them.\* (2:128)

﴿يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِكَ﴾

• He will recite to them Your Signs •

The Messenger will recite to them what is revealed upon him of the Signs which point towards the Oneness of Allāh, Prophethood and the Hereafter.

Some scholars have interpreted the same section of the verse in the following manner:

The Messenger will inform them of the people before him and those who will come after him until the Day of Judgement.

﴿يُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ﴾

• He will teach them the Book •

The Messenger will teach them the book by explaining to them its words, the manner of its recitation and by enlightening them of its apparent and hidden meanings.

﴿وَالْحِكْمَةَ﴾

• Al-Hikmah •

[Here Allāmah Ālūsī . has given four different explanations for the word Al-Hikmah (Wisdom)]

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\* Sūrah Baqarah Verse 128

The placing of objects where they belong<sup>7</sup>.

1. Something that extinguishes the flame of *Hubbud Duniya*<sup>8</sup> from the hearts (of the Believers).
2. The explanation and understanding of *Din*
3. The *Sunnah* of the Messenger ﷺ which is a manifestation of the Book.

(وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ)

‘And will purify them’

The Messenger will cleanse them of the filth of polytheism, the impurity of doubt and the pollution of sins.

(وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ) alludes to *At-Takhliyah* whilst (وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ) to *At-Tahliyah*.<sup>9</sup>

Perhaps the reason for *At-Tahliyah* being mentioned before *At-Takhliyah* in this verse is to show its importance and rank over *At-Takhliyah*<sup>10</sup>. [Rūhul Ma‘āni Volume 1, Page 387]

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<sup>7</sup> The actual text from the commentary is *وَمَعَ الْأَشْيَاءِ بِمَوَاقِعِهَا* and is not restricted to objects. It refers to both the animate and inanimate. i.e. treat people and objects according to their nature.

<sup>8</sup> the adoration of the worldly life

<sup>9</sup> *At-Takhliyah* literally means 'to empty' and *At-Tahliyah* means 'to adorn or to beautify'. Here these words are used to explain two stages of *Tazkiyah* (purification). *At-Takhliyah* here refers to the stage when a person rids his soul and mind from the impurity and filth of polytheism and doubt. *At-Tahliyah* refers to adorning that same soul and mind with the teachings and actions of *Islām*.

<sup>10</sup> This text is quite technical. Here the commentator is trying to answer a question which arises with regards to the sequence of purification and education. Understand this with a simple example. If a person wants to fill a dirty glass with pure milk, he has to first clean the glass and then pour the milk. It doesn't make any sense if the person pours the milk first. In the same way purification is a means of ridding the soul and mind of impurities and education is a means of adorning the soul and mind, so the sequence of the terms should be the other way round, i.e. *At-Takhliyah* should precede *At-Tahliyah*. The commentator explains this sequence. He says that *At-Tahliyah* is mentioned first due to it being nobler than *At-Takhliyah*. (Allāh ﷻ knows best.)

The previously mentioned verses of both *Sûrah Jumu'ah* [62:2] and *Sûrah Âl 'Imrân* [3:164] have identical words. The only difference is the sequence; therefore the interpretation is similar.

Allâh ﷻ accepted the *Du'â* of *Ibrâhîm* ﷺ and *Ismâ'îl* ﷺ and after a designated time, sent a Messenger who possessed these three attributes. Allâh ﷻ has mentioned these attributes of this Messenger ﷺ in the *Noble Qur'ân*:

- (1) In *Sûrah Baqarah* verse 151
- (2) *Sûrah Âl 'Imran*, Verse 164
- (3) And in *Sûrah Jumu'ah*, Verse 2

In the aforementioned verses<sup>11</sup>, the order of the attributes are the same, i.e. firstly, recitation of the *Âyât* (verses) is mentioned, then *Tazkiyah* (Purification) and lastly, *Ta'lim* (teaching) of the Book and *Al-Hikmah*.

In the verse where the *Du'â*<sup>12</sup> of *Ibrâhîm* ﷺ is mentioned [*Sûrah Baqarah*:128] the sequence changes slightly. In this *Âyah*, recitation of the *Âyât* is mentioned *first*, then *Ta'lim* of the Book and *Al-Hikmah* and lastly, *Tazkiyah*<sup>13</sup>.



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<sup>11</sup> These verses have already been mentioned and translated on page 3.

<sup>12</sup> Supplication or prayer.

<sup>13</sup> For the rest of the booklet, three terms will be used over and again. Each term refers to a particular part of the verse.

1. *Tilawah* (recitation) or *Dalwah* (propagation) refers to **تِلَاوَاتِ الْكُتُبِ**
2. *Tazkiyah* (purification) refers to **تَزْكِيَاتِ الْكُتُبِ**
3. *Ta'lim* (teaching/education) refers to **تَعْلِيمَاتِ الْكُتُبِ**



## Commentary on These Three Duties

### The Commentary of Maulana Ashraf 'Ali Thanwi<sup>14</sup> ر.ح.

*Allāmah Ālūsī* ر.ح. states that the first duty of recitation means that Rasūlullah ﷺ should recite and propagate the verses of Tauhid and Risālah and other important matters (such as the hereafter) to the Sahābah ر.ح.

*Maulana Ashraf Ali Thanwi* ر.ح. has mentioned in *Bayānūl Qur'ān* after the *Tafsīr* of *Sūrah Āl-Imrān* in *Masā'ilus Sulūk*<sup>15</sup>:

﴿يَعْلَمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ﴾

In these verses there is firstly a confirmation of *'Ilmul Asrār*<sup>16</sup> and of *Turuqus Sulūk*<sup>17</sup>. This has been explained in *Rūḥul Ma'ānī*. It states that recitation refers to propagating the verses of *Tauhid* and *Risālah* (Prophethood). *Tazkiyah* (Purification) involves calling people towards the *Kalīmah Tauheed* لا اله الا الله محمد رسول الله which in itself is an expression of *Tauhid* and *Risālah* (as this is a means of purification from polytheism). 'Teaching the Book' refers to teaching the words of the Noble Qur'ān, and teaching *Al-Hikmah* refers to explaining the hidden meanings of the Noble Qur'ān.

*Tilāwah* is mentioned first as this is the introduction. *Tazkiyah* is mentioned next as purity [from polytheism etc.] is the first characteristic a Believer is adorned with. *Ta'lim* follows next which is one's need after *Imān*. The sequence of the last two attributes shows that *At-Takhlīyah* (of which *Tazkiyah* is a component) precedes *At-Taḥlīyah* (of which *Ta'lim* is a component). Now the question arises as to why *At-Taḥlīyah* is mentioned before *At-Takhlīyah* in *Sūrah Baqarah*,

<sup>14</sup> *Hakīmūl Ummah Maulanā Ashraf 'Alī Thanwī*, great scholar from India. Completed over 1000 books including *Behishṭ-e-Lawāh*. Passed away in 1362 A.H.

<sup>15</sup> *Masā'ilus Sulūk*: This is a section devoted to discuss issues relating to the method of attaining the recognition of the Almighty. The Author brings such a section after every *Sūrah*.

<sup>16</sup> Knowledge not attained by means of a mortal being.

<sup>17</sup> Paths to the recognition of the Almighty.

this is perhaps to highlight the rank of *At-Tahliyah* above *At-Takhiyah*.  
[*Rūhul Ma'āni*]

*Maulanā Ashraf 'Alī Thanwi* رحمته says further:

The changing of the sequence in the verses shows that *At-Tahliyah* can precede *At-Takhiyah* if the circumstances demand that. According to the Sufis both are practiced upon<sup>13</sup>. [*Bayānul Qur'ān* volume 1, page 292]

## An Extract from the Lecture of Maulānā Ināmul Hasan<sup>19</sup> رحمته

*Hadhratjī Maulānā Ināmul Hasan* رحمته once gave a lecture to the *Ulamā* regarding *Da'wah*, *Tazkiyah* and *Ta'lim* during an *Iftimā'* held in *Chandpūr* which is in the province of *Bajnūr*, on the 15<sup>th</sup> *Shabān* 1395 AH (23<sup>rd</sup> August 1975). This is an extract from his lecture;

*Allāh* ﷻ has said:

هُوَ الَّذِي بَعَثَ فِي الْأُمَمِ رَسُولًا مِّنْهُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ  
وَالْحِكْمَةَ ۗ

*Allāh* ﷻ sent *Rasūlullāh* ﷺ with three duties;

- (1) *Da'wah*
- (2) *Tazkiyah* and
- (3) *Ta'lim*.

*Da'wah* was the primary duty of the Messenger as the existence of the other two depends on it. During the era of *Rasūlullāh* ﷺ and the *Sahābah* ؓ, it was *Da'wah* that gave life to *Tazkiyah* and *Ta'lim*. *Da'wah*

<sup>13</sup> According to the Sufis one's *Tazkiyah* can occur by either cleansing the soul first and then adorning it with good deeds i.e. *At-Takhiyah* then *At-Tahliyah*. And in certain circumstances *Tazkiyah* can occur by firstly carrying out good deeds and then cleansing the soul i.e. *At-Tahliyah* then *At-Takhiyah*. Here *Maulanā Ashraf 'Alī Thanwi* mentions that the second process of *Tazkiyah* is also established from the *Qur'an*.

<sup>14</sup> *Maulānā Ināmul Hasan* رحمته was the Amir of the *Tablighi* effort. An effort which has helped revive the effort of commanding towards good and forbidding evil.

is essential in this day and age for the very same reason. (Da'wat Ki Basirat Aur Us ka Fahir wa Idraak, Pages 27 and 28. Maulana Muhammad Shahed Sahab)

## The First Duty of the Ambiyâ ﷺ was Da'wah

From the aforementioned works of Allâmah Âlûsi, Maulânâ Thâwir and Maulânâ Inâmul Hasan .., it is evident that the first duty of Rasûlullâh ﷺ was Da'wah. By reciting the verses of the Noble Qur'ân to the Sahâbah .., Rasûlullâh ﷺ called them towards the oneness of Allâh ﷻ and Islâm. The Sahâbah<sup>20</sup> .. were native Arabs and therefore easily understood the verses of Tawhid, Risâlah and the Âkhira (Hereafter).

It was by means of this Da'wah that their hearts were cleansed from the impurity of disbelief and polytheism, purified from doubt and uncertainty. Furthermore, this Da'wah purified them of all their past habits and sins. This is Tazkiyah, the second duty of the Messenger ﷺ. Finally, by studying the literal and intricate meanings of the Noble Qur'ân together with the blessed sayings of Rasûlullâh ﷺ, the Sahâbah .. were adorned with the complete Sharî'ah and the beauty of the Sunnah. As a result, the Sahâbah .. became beautified with all kinds of wonderful attributes and were free from all evil traits.

Ta'lim of the Book entails understanding the literal meanings of the words of the Qur'ân and it entails learning how to recite it correctly. Ta'lim of Al-Hikmah entails understanding the laws mentioned in its verses, its intricate meanings and wisdoms. This is apparent from the commentary of Allâmah Âlûsi ..

## The Commentary of Allâmah Shabbir Ahmad Uthmâni

..<sup>21</sup>

Allâmah Shabbir Ahmad Uthmâni .. commented on the verse of *Al-Imrân* as follows:

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<sup>20</sup> The Companions of the Messenger >

<sup>21</sup> Allâmah Shabbir Uthmâni .. was a scholar of great status. Amongst his achievements was the completion of *Tafsîr Uthmâni*, a great exegesis of the Noble Qur'ân and initiating of a commentary on *Sahâb Muslim* (this was later completed by Mufti Taqi Uthmâni).

To summarise this verse four aspects from the life of the Messenger ﷺ have been mentioned:

(1) **Recitation of the verses** (to the *Sahâbah*). Due to Arabic being the mother tongue of the *Sahâbah*, they understood the literal meanings and acted upon the verses.

(2) **Purification of the souls.** (To rid the soul from all types of egoism, polytheism and sins.<sup>22</sup>)

(3) **Teaching the Book** (explaining the intricate meanings of the *Noble Qur'ân*). The need for such explaining arose when doubts occurred in the minds of the *Sahâbah* due to them relying on the common usage of certain words. *Rasûlullâh* ﷺ would thereafter explain the true meaning and context of the verse. By means of which the doubts of his companions would be cleared.

To cite an example of the above scenario *Allâh* Ta'ala says in *Sûrah An'âm*:<sup>23</sup>

الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَلَمْ يَلْبِسُوا إِيمَانَهُمْ بِظُلْمٍ ...

There were a few verses which needed the clarification of the Messenger ﷺ.

(4) **Teaching *Al-Hikmah*** (To teach the deeper meanings of *Al-Hikmah*) and to explain the hidden meanings and intricacies and inform the *Sahâbah* of the deep wisdoms of *Shari'ah*. This was either done explicitly or implicitly. Through the grace of the Almighty and His help that a naive nation, who for centuries were in gross ignorance and were drowning in clear misguidance were saved. Within a few years, by means of the teaching and company of *Rasûlullâh* ﷺ they became guides and teachers for the entire humanity. For the abovementioned reasons it is crucial that they recognise this great bounty and never even forgetfully sadden the heart of the Messenger ﷺ. (*Fawâid Shabbiriyyah* - *Sûrah Âl-'Imrân*)

<sup>22</sup> refers to exerting oneself in the purification of souls.

<sup>23</sup> This is *Surâh An'âm* : 82: "Those who believe and obscure not their belief by wrongdoing, theirs is safety; and they are rightly guided."

The Companions understood wrongdoing to refer to general sins which meant that even the smallest of sins would deny a believer from safety and would deprive a person from being rightly guided. This caused them to be greatly perturbed. *Rasulullah* later explained to them that in this verse wrongdoing refers to ascribing partners with Allah and not general sins. This explanation removed their anxiety.

## Other Verses and Ahādith explaining the Missions of the Ambiyā

In all the aforementioned verses of the *Noble Qur'ān*, the first duty of the Messenger ﷺ is to propagate by means of reciting the verses of the *Noble Qur'ān*.

*Imām Bukhāri* . mentions in his *Al-Jami'*<sup>24</sup>, that the first revelation consisted of the first five verses of *Sūrah 'Alaq (Iqra')*. These verses are an introduction to *Allāh* ﷻ. They mention that He is the Creator. They explain that *Allāh* ﷻ created man from a clot of blood, He is the true Cherisher of man and that *Allāh* ﷻ provides the creations' necessities and helps them reach their decreed potential. He is most Kind, He taught man by means of the Pen and taught Man what he knew not. Read in the name of that Lord!

After the first revelation, a lengthy intermission prevailed. Thereafter, the verses of *Sūrah Muddathir* were revealed. It was in this *Sūrah*<sup>25</sup> that *Rasūlullāh* ﷺ received the command of *Dā'wah*.

قُمْ فَأَنْذِرْ ۚ وَرَبُّكَ فَكَبِيرٌ ۝

*Stand up and warn the people, and express the greatness of your Cherisher.*

In other words, now inform others of the Rabb you have recognised.

After this revelation, the message from *Allāh* came continuously for ten to twelve years. During these years, revelation was confined to *Tauhid*, *Prophethood* and the *Hereafter*. *Rasūlullāh* ﷺ used to propagate these verses to the people by reciting them.

فَذَكِّرْ بِالْقُرْآنِ مَنْ يَخَافُ وَعِيدِ ۝

By reciting the verses of the *Noble Qur'ān*, he would reinforce the faith of the people, purify their hearts from the impurities of doubt and

<sup>24</sup> Referring to a *Hadīth* of *Bukhāri*.

<sup>25</sup> *Sūrah Muddathir* Verse 3

polytheism, cleansing their hearts of the false beliefs of the polytheists and the People of the Book. [Rûhul Ma'ânî 4:114]

After this period of ten to twelve years, when the *Ahkâm* (commands of Salâh, Saum etc) were revealed, the details of these *Ahkâm* were explained to the *Sahâbah* ﷺ and were practically demonstrated to them. As the verses were revealed, their words, meanings, purposes, intricacies and wisdoms were explained to the *Sahâbah* ﷺ. In this manner, their hearts and minds were adorned with the knowledge and understanding of *Dîn*.

One stage of *Tazkiyah* was that which was achieved only through listening to the verses of the *Noble Qur'ân* being recited upon them and by means of propagation. Through this method of *Tazkiyah*, they achieved:

- the conviction of the attributes of *Allâh*.
- the certainty that success lies only in the *Sunnah* of *Rasûlullâh* ﷺ.
- the true belief and reality of the Hereafter,
- faith in the existence of *Jannah* and *Jahannam*,
- the belief that none other than the Almighty was responsible for every gain and every setback,
- the knowledge that only the Almighty gave life and took it away,
- the understanding that true life was the life after death,
- the realization that this world was merely a temporary abode,
- purity from the uncertainty and polytheism and from the false beliefs of the people of the past.

By virtue of these attributes the *Sahâbah* ﷺ overcame and endured mountains of calamities and remained steadfast.

The *Sahâbah* were elevated to another stage of *Tazkiyyah* after the revelation of *Ahkâm* pertaining to refraining from sin.

وَذُرُوا ظَاهِرَ الْإِثْمِ وَبَاطِنَهُ

*Refrain from both apparent and inconspicuous sins.*<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> Sûrah An'âm : 120

The *Sahâbah* ﷺ immediately complied when the orders came from *Allâh* ﷻ to refrain from malice, enmity, miserliness, lethargy, arrogance and other maladies of the heart. Likewise, when the prohibitions of adultery, theft, alcoholism, false accusation, backbiting, harbouring ill-thoughts, evil glances and other sins were revealed, the *Sahâbah* ﷺ did not hesitate to comply. When the *Sahâbah* ﷺ were prohibited from abstaining from good deeds, they complied to this and were purified even further. This final stage of not abstaining from good deeds is the highest level of *Tazkiyah*.

If we take this meaning of *Tazkiyah* from the supplication of *Ibrâhim* ﷺ (2:128), then the point made by *Allâmah Âlûsi* ﷺ (below) with regards to the sequence of *Ta'lim* and *Tazkiyah* will be understood and held in high regard.

*Allâmah Âlûsi* ﷺ says in the *Tafsîr* of *Sûrah Baqarah*, verse 151:

*Allâh* ﷻ placed *Tazkiyah* before *Ta'lim* in this verse (2:151) and in the supplication of *Ibrâhim* (2:128) after *Ta'lim* to show that in both places the intended meaning is different. For both sequences there is an explanation. (*Rûhul Ma'ânî* Volume 2 Page 128)

Where *Tazkiyah* is mentioned before *Ta'lim* the first meaning of *Tazkiyah* is intended i.e. purification from the impurities of doubt and polytheism from the false beliefs of the Polytheists and the People of the Book. Where *Ta'lim* succeeds *Tazkiyah* the second stage of *Tazkiyah* is intended i.e. conviction in the attributes of *Allâh* and the Hereafter etc.

From this, we learn that in both places *Tazkiyah* has different implications and there is an explanation for its position in both verses.

*Allâmah Âlûsi* ﷺ explains in Volume 2 page 18

﴿يُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ﴾

*Ibrâhim* ﷺ placed *Tazkiyah* after *Ta'lim* referring to the higher stage of *Tazkiyah* and this stage can only be attained after *Ta'lim* of the Book and *Al Hikmah*. The remaining verses from the various *Sûrahs* refer to the lower stage of *Tazkiyah*, i.e. purification from polytheism etc. It is for this reason that *Tazkiyah* was mentioned before *Ta'lim* in those

verses, because Ta'lim of the Book and Al-Hikmah can not be achieved without this purification. Disbelief would be an obstacle in this Ta'lim. <sup>27</sup>

## Conclusion

Further on *Allâmah Âlûsi* brings a few other interpretations and then concludes as follows:

*The most that can be said about this is: Since Ta'lim removed uncertainty and all types of evil from the lives of the Sahâbah x it was a means of purification for them. So this sequence [Ta'lim before Tazkiyah] shows that the action which leads to the consequence is brought to represent the consequence. Like the example of an archer and death in the technicalities of the Arabs when they say: "He shot him, thus killed him." Understand like so! <sup>28</sup>*

It is for this reason that in the *Tafsîr* of Surah Baqarah verse 151, *Allâmah Âlûsi* holds *Tazkiyah* to mean the negation of doubt and polytheism or the falsification of the beliefs of the polytheists and beliefs of the People of the Book.

However, in his *Tafsîr* of (2:128), he has decided to combine both stages of *Tazkiyah*:

(وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ)

*He will purify them from the impurities of polytheism, the filth of uncertainty and the stains of sin <sup>29</sup>.*

Here *Allâh Ta'ala* mentions one additional explanation of purification viz. purity from the stains of sin.

Glory be to Allâh, What an excellent explanation!

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<sup>27</sup> *Rûhul Ma'âni* Volume 2, Page 18

<sup>28</sup> In the Arabic language, when a person says, "He shot him, thus killed him" shooting is metaphorically associated with killing, whereas shooting does not always necessitate killing. In the like manner since the eradication of uncertainty and sin is associated with *Ta'lim*, here it is mentioned that it does eradicate the above evils.

<sup>29</sup> *Rûhul Ma'âni* Volume 1, Page 387



## Final Note

From the excellent commentary of these verses, we learn that a perfect adherent to the Sunnah is that person who as well as giving Da'wah, is also devoted to 'Ilm<sup>15</sup> and is involved in the Tazkiyah of himself and others.

Students of *Dīn* and *Ulamā* should pay special attention to this. We should continue taking part in both the efforts of *Da'wah* and *Tazkiyah*. Ideally we should fulfil the rights of all three activities (*Da'wah*, *Ta'lim* and *Tazkiyah*). *Shari'ah* promotes accumulation (of all these responsibilities) and does not encourage the distribution (of these responsibilities).<sup>16</sup>

May *Allāh* ﷻ grant us the ability to bring these attributes into our lives!

و صلى الله على النبي الامي و الحمد لله اولاً و آخراً

(Shaykh) Fadhlor Rahman Azami  
15<sup>th</sup> Jumadal Ula 1426 AH  
22<sup>nd</sup> June 2005

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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<sup>15</sup> This refers to Islamic Knowledge

<sup>16</sup> Here the Shaykh concludes by saying that *Shari'ah* encourages that everyone should try to take part in all the responsibilities of the Messenger ﷺ. *Shari'ah* does not teach us to allocate the different responsibilities on different individuals or upon particular groups.